

**MONTROSE CHEMICAL CORPORATION OF CALIFORNIA**

AFFILIATE OF STAUFFER CHEMICAL COMPANY

POST OFFICE BOX 147  
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 90507  
June 16, 1970

SFUND RECORDS CTR  
0639-93416

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John D. Parkhurst  
Chief Engineer & General Manager  
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
2020 Beverly Blvd.  
Los Angeles, California 90057

Dear Mr. Parkhurst:

This is to confirm recent discussions concerning waste effluents entering the Los Angeles County sewer from the Torrance Plant of the Montrose Chemical Corporation of California.

Recently your personnel have monitored our effluent discharge for DDT content and your values have been found to correspond closely to current values being obtained in our local laboratories. Our analysis has shown the total of DDT and all its isomers and metabolites to range from somewhat below 1 ppm. to about 5 ppm., which compares with your findings of slightly less than 5 ppm. Considering the complexity of the samples and sensitivity of these test procedures these results would be considered as checking each other.

During the past several years we have gradually reduced the quantity of DDT-like materials being discharged into the county sewer. This has resulted both from reducing the concentration in the water and also by reducing the quantity of water being discharged. Currently the quantity of water is about 1/3 of what it was 3 or 4 years ago and the concentration of DDT-like materials also considerably reduced. As better analytical tools have become available we have been able to improve our monitoring and understanding of the problem.

At the present time we are working with the Aerojet General Corporation who is the prime contractor to the Federal Water Quality Administration to develop chemical systems to degrade DDT. They have reported some success with synthetic mixtures and are now proposing a plant-sized demonstration unit. Montrose and Aerojet General are

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discussing with the Federal Water Quality Administration a plan for an overall Pilot Plant program to eliminate DDT and its isomers and metabolites. We expect that this work will continue in the same direction as during the recent past toward process modifications to place the plant on total recycle to the greatest possible degree with the substantially reduced final effluent volume treated by a system similar to that developed by Aerojet General or some other suitable procedure so that the final effluent is reduced in quantity and concentration.

I would like to point out that our effluent is currently being diluted in the order of 1,000 to 1 in the county sewer treatment plant which in itself greatly reduces the impact of final discharge. And, further DDT which is lipid-soluble and not water-soluble is concentrated in the solid sediments in the treating plant, where as part of the sludge it is subjected to anaerobic bacterial decomposition. The literature contains numerous references which point out that DDT is readily degraded under anaerobic conditions by bacteria normally present in activated sludges. This degradation further lessens the impact on the receiving waters.

In summary, we have made notable progress in reducing the absolute quantity of DDT-like materials being discharged into the county sewer system and are continuing an active campaign both on our own and in cooperation with Aerojet General and with the Federal Water Quality Administration to further reduce the quantity of water being discharged and to reduce the DDT content of the effluent to where it will be negligible.

We appreciate the opportunity for open discussion and look toward its continuation.

Yours very truly,

A. R. Wilcox  
Vice-President,  
Operations

• ARW:cg

cc: Mr. Sterling Buesch

bcc: Samuel Rotrosen